IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 5 as follows:

Figs. 3a and 3b are [[is a]] diagrams illustrating the G.709 optical data unit (ODU) frame structure, and the ODU overhead, optical channel payload unit (OPU), and optical channel transport unit (OTU) overhead.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 7 as follows:

Figs. 3a and 3b are [[is a]] diagrams illustrating the G.709 optical data unit (ODU) frame structure, and the ODU overhead, optical channel payload unit (OPU), and optical channel transport unit (OTU) overhead. In a G.709 compliant system, it is normal to provide read access to all 64 of the G.709 overhead bytes by dropping them to the user interface during each frame. Some of these 64 overhead bytes contain frame alignment signal (FAS) bytes. As shown, the frame alignment signal bytes are in row 1, columns 1 through 6. The frame alignment signal bytes contain no information per se, but are used as a marker to indicate the beginning of a frame, or a row. That is, the frame alignment signal bytes are used for frame synchronization and timing.